ground water levels instead of allowing it only to sweep the top soil layers into the rivers; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Death of Students due to AIDS

550. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that a number of students died of 'AIDS' in the country since 1980 onwards; if so, the year-wise number of Indian and Foreign students died separately in Delhi, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh particularly;

(b) what is the number of Indian and Foreign students, who are still surviving on treatment;

(c) what are the reasons that Government have not been in position to check this disease in the country so far, inspite of various research work done in this field; and

(d) what are the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to eradicate this disease in the country to the extent possible?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Infant Mortality Rate

551. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the country is 105 per thousand, one of the highest in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the IMR in rural India is 140 per thousand accounting for 30 per cent of all deaths in the country;

(c) what are the States which are below national average and those which are over the average;

(d) what are the main reasons for such a high IMR rate and what are the concrete steps taken/proposed to control this problem; and

(e) what is the IMR in some of the developing and developed countries indicating India's position therein?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) The latest provisional estimate of Infant Mortality Rate as obtained from Sample Registration System of Registrar General of India is 95 per thousand live births for the year 1987. The infant mortality rate as compared to some of the Asian/African countries is lower in India (Statement—I *See* below).

The infant mortality rate is 104 for rural areas during the year 1987. The percentage of infant deaths (provisional) in rural areas to total deaths in the country is 24.8 for the year 1987.

(c) The States of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have infant mortality rate higher than the national level during 1987 and the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra; Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have infant mortality rate below the national level during the same year, as given in Statement II. (*See* below).

(d) The main reasons for high infant mortality rate in the country are Prematurity, Disorders of respiratory system, Diarrhoea, Tetanus, Mal-Nutrition etc. The steps taken by the Government of India to control the infant mortality include improvement of health infrastructure, training of health manpower, health education, adoption of 'risk approach',